

October, 2016 USA and India decided to continue their engagement on visa issues and reiterated their shared resolve to facilitate the movement of professionals. India is articulating Visa concerns vigorously with new administration in U.S. This issue was also taken up by the Commerce and Industry Minister recently with the visiting Congressional delegation led by Mr. Bob Goodlatte and during the visit of Commerce Secretary and Foreign Secretary to US during the 1st week of March, 2017.

### Trade relations with Pakistan

1453. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total bilateral trade being done between India and Pakistan during the last three years;

(b) whether Pakistan has imposed many trade restrictions on the land route as well as has also not granted India Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status till date, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has taken initiatives to improve the trade relations with Pakistan during the current regime; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The details of total bilateral trade between India and Pakistan during the last three years are as under:—

Values in US\$ Million

Financial Year	Exports	Imports	Total Trade
2013-2014	2274.26	426.88	2701.14
2014-2015	1857.18	497.31	2354.49
2015-2016	2171.14	441.03	2612.17
TOTAL	6302.58	1365.22	7667.80

Source: DGCI&S database

(b) to (d) Pakistan is yet to transition fully to Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status for India. It maintains a Negative List of 1209 products which are not allowed to be imported from India. In addition, Pakistan also permits only 137 products to be imported from India through Wagah/Attari border land route.

During the 7th round of talks on Commercial and Economic Cooperation between Commerce Secretaries of India and Pakistan held in Islamabad in September, 2012, it

was agreed, *inter alia*, that Pakistan would immediately remove all trade restrictions through Wagah/Attari border, transition fully to MFN (non-discriminatory) status for India by December, 2012, etc. Pakistan, however, did not adhere to the timelines.

The Commerce Ministers of India and Pakistan met in January 2014 on the sidelines of the 5th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave held at New Delhi. Both Ministers reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to expeditiously establish normal trading relations and in this context to provide Non-Discriminatory Market Access (NDMA), on a reciprocal basis. Both sides decided to intensify and accelerate the process of trade normalisation, liberalisation and facilitation and to implement the agreed measures.

In the meeting between Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan on 27th May 2014, India stated that the two countries could move immediately towards full trade normalisation on the basis of September 2012 roadmap worked out between the Commerce Secretaries of both countries.

No bilateral trade meeting between India and Pakistan has taken place since then, and there is no progress on the agreed roadmap.

#### **Self-sufficiency in industrial materials**

1454. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has not been able to attain self-sufficiency in respect of industrial materials and defence equipment and India is still dependent on foreign imports for transport equipments, machineries, iron and steel, paper, chemicals and fertilizers, plastic material etc.;

(b) if so, steps taken to attain self-sufficiency in industrial materials and defence equipment;

(c) whether industrial growth is also marked with regional concentration and most of the industries are concentrated in few selected areas while vast areas of the country remain devoid of industrial establishments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Details of Imports and exports of transport equipment's, machineries, iron and steel, paper, chemicals and fertilizers, plastic material are given in Statement-I (*See below*). and initiatives taken by the Government to attain self-sufficiency in industrial material and defence equipment are given in Statement-II (*See below*).